Daily Pilot

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 2024 /// dailypilot.com



Photos by James Carbone

SURFERS' HALL OF FAME inductees, from left, Jeff Deffenbaugh, Ilima Kalama, Jamie O'Brien and Surfers' Hall of Fame founder Aaron Pai pose for pictures on Friday.

Surfers' Hall of Fame inducts 3 more standouts in the sport

Jeff Deffenbaugh, Jamie O'Brien and Ilima Kalama join in the festivities for the 2024 class.

BY MATT SZABO

Longtime Huntington Beach High School surfing coach Andy Verdone remembers when Jeff Deffenbaugh graduated from Dwyer Middle School and entered high school.

Verdone put Deffenbaugh on varsity immediately. He saw the freshman win many heats, but he believes true character was revealed when he lost one.

"That's when you know someone's got it," Verdone told the crowd assembled at Friday morning's Surfers' Hall of Fame induction ceremony. "You look them in the eye and they take the loss hard. They don't say anything. They internalize it, they go back and they work it out. He hates to lose, but he's a great winner, Jeff Deffenbaugh."

Deffenbaugh was one of three surf standouts honored in the 2024 class. Hawaiian surfers Ilima Kalama and Jamie O'Brien also put their hands and feet into the wet cement in front of Huntington Surf & Sport, as per



See **Surfers**, page A6 **SURFERS' HALL OF FAME** inductee Jeff Deffenbaugh smiles as he places his hands in cement.

Doctor sues to reclaim clinic

A Newport Beach pediatrician sues hedge fund he partnered with, alleges managers put profits before patients.

BY ERIC LICAS

The creator of one of Orange County's largest pediatric practices filed a lawsuit against the hedge fund he had partnered with to financially weather the pandemic, claiming it endangered patients by putting profits ahead of care, threatened to ruin his reputation and then fired him for speaking out.

Dr. Steve Abelowitz of Newport Beach started Coastal Kids in 2001, and since then it has expanded to nine locations in eight cities, including Irvine, Santa Ana, Laguna Hills and Ladera Ranch. The company found success, but like many others its future became uncertain amid the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic

See **Doctor,** page A5

Fairgoer buys \$1M winning scratcher

A \$10 Multiplier Craze scratch-off ticket was reported sold Sunday.

BY SARA CARDINE

It's always a good time at the Orange County Fair, especially for one lucky fairgoer who reportedly won a \$1-million prize from a lottery scratch-off ticket purchased on the Costa Mesa fairgrounds.

A ticket sold at a booth manned by a retailer — a \$10 Multiplier Craze scratcher that boasts 24 chances to win, including bonus spots and cash prizes that could be multiplied by 2, 5, 10 and 50 — served up its jackpot

See **Winning,** page A2

Equestrian holdouts, horses barred from fairgrounds arenas

BY SARA CARDINE

More than a month after notices were posted at the O.C. fairgrounds' Equestrian Center — giving tenants who hadn't signed onto new contract terms 30 days to reconsider or vacate — padlocks went up Thursday, blocking arenas and open spaces.

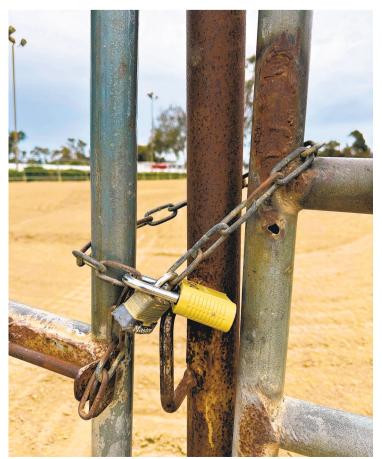
Some horse boarders, trainers and riders who keep equines at the 7.5-acre Costa Mesa center were shocked to learn their horses would be physically restricted to barns and paved walkways at the site.

"[Horses] need to be able to move," said equestrian Macki Hamblin, who's rented six stalls at the facility for the past two years. "Taking away their turnout time or riding, they're not able to get their exercise."

A contingent of outlier tenants, after encountering the padlocks, showed up with horses and protest signs to demonstrate outside a special reception being held at the fairgrounds for area dignitaries and local officials.

Despite equestrians' shock and dismay, OC Fair & Event Center Chief Executive Michele Richards warned in a July 27 letter common areas would be blocked to those tenants who'd

See **Barred**, page A4



Looking for a col

Courtesy of Brian Lochre

PADLOCKS INSTALLED Thursday on an arena at the Orange County fairgrounds' Equestrian Center aim to block admittance to tenants who refuse to sign new contract terms at the 7.5-acre site.

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



James Carbone

U.S. OPEN OF SURFING ARTIST FINDS PEACE WITH PAINT PAGE A3

Laguna aims to beautify commercial district with new incentive program

BY ANDREW TURNER

Looking for a collaborative effort to beautify its commercial district and draw more people into local businesses, Laguna Beach plans to incentivize property owners to maintain their buildings and the surrounding

The city further defined the conditions by which a property would be considered a good neighbor. Conditions that constitute a nuisance were outlined in an ordinance approved by the City Council on July 23. Property owners, including those with va-

See **Beautify**, page A3

Convicted robber charged with hit-and-run in Huntington Beach

BY CITY NEWS SERVICE

A 49-year-old convicted robber was charged Thursday with a hit-and-run collision in Huntington Beach that injured a woman and with leading police on a chase.

Nakia Terrell Rouise was charged with assault with a deadly weapon, evading a police officer, reckless driving, failing to stop at a hit and run with injury and car theft, all felonies, and a misdemeanor count of driving on a suspended license.

Just before 11 p.m. Tuesday, officers were dispatched to Adams Avenue and Brookhurst Street regarding the hit-and-run, according to the Huntington Beach Police Department.

An officer tracked down the suspected vehicle, which had been stolen, a short time later, and when the officer attempted to pull the driver over the suspect kept going, and the pursuit ultimately ended when the car was disabled, police said.

Rouise was convicted of robbery in October 2002 and in January 1994 in Los Angeles County, according to the criminal complaint.

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WINNING Continued from page A1 last Sunday, fair officials

last Sunday, fair officials reported Thursday. "There's been a lottery

booth at the fair for about 15 years, and there is always a line every time I walk by," said OC Fair & Event Center CEO Michele Richards. "I don't know if they think the fair is lucky, but it certainly was for one purchaser."

Though the lucky recipient shared the news with the retailer and other fairgoers in the immediate vicinity, California Lottery spokesperson Carolyn Becker said an official win could not be announced until the purchase and the card had been verified.

"We will not know who the winner is or whether they won until they come forward and file a claim. That begins the vetting process," she said Thursday.

day.

"Unfortunately, we have people coming forward to declare a win who are bad actors. In a prize of this size, especially when it's a \$1 million win, our law enforcement division assigns an officer to call and question them about their

Becker said the California Lottery — whose games provide about 1% of the state's K-12 instruction funding, according to the California Department



Courtesy of Orange County Fair & Event Center

ORANGE COUNTY fairgoers line up to buy lottery tickets at a booth, where a \$20 purchase offers a chance to spin a wheel for free scratchers.

of Education — cannot directly sell tickets and instead relies on some 23,000 retail partners, who receive .05% of jackpots \$1 million or more as an incentive to participate in the program.

In this case, the OC Fair lottery booth operator could receive \$5,000 from last weekend's win, which by this week was already being advertised on a poster hanging up at the

Lottery officials estimate the chance of winning a prize of any level on the \$10 Multiplier Craze game, including a free ticket, is 1:3.3. The odds of a cash prize are 1:612, but there is only a 1 in 1,220,542 chance of winning the full \$1-million jackpot, according to the

card's prize page.

On top of the usual odds, lottery booths that make the state and county fair circuit in California feature prize wheels that allow those who purchase \$20 in tickets to spin for a chance to win free scratch-off tickets.

Richards said there's nothing like a fairgoer essentially turning into a millionaire overnight to confirm the validity of this year's OC Fair theme "Always a Good Time."

"This year's fair has been magical — people are having a fabulous time," she said Thursday. "So, this really is icing on the cake to what's been an incredible year so far."

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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS 1 Blowout wins 6 Covers with frosting 10 Soybean-based paste 14 Clued in 15 _, address, and phone number 16 Poems of praise 17 Group of nine 18 Factually correct 19 Protein vegetarians avoid 20 Tornado or dust devil 22 Political argument 24 Doles out 27 Cowboy's rope

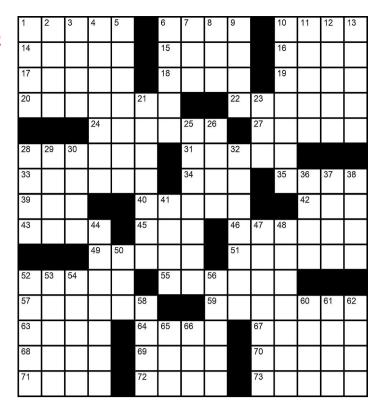
28 Atom centers 31 Does damage to 33 Haul in 34 Whiskey grain 35 Sculpture and dance, e.g. 39 Number on a birthday card 40 "You beat me": 2 wds. 42 "Lookee here!" 43 Require 45 Salty body of water 46 Weather map line 49 Let in 51 Up-to-date 52 Egg-producing organ 55 Facet 57 Hole in a pool table

59 Tel Aviv native 63 Feel sore 64 Boat's frame 67 "Snowy" bird 68 Landlocked Asian country 69 "Gotcha": 2

wds. 70 Thick books 71 Narrow opening 72 Groups of reps 73 Serpentine

DOWN 1 Tirade

1 Tirade 7 Sedan or coup 2 "That HURTS!": 2 8 Flightless bird



SUDOKU

By the Mepham Group

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *sudoku.org.uk*.

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			3	6	2			7
	3			1				
	5		9					
8	1		7				6	3
						5		4

For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A3.

wds.
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4 Early discount
event
5 Reaches an
agreement
6 Emcee's speech
7 Sedan or coupe
8 Flightless bird

9 Tournament position 10 Kenyan city 11 Notions 12 Chairs and sofas 13 Bony prefix 21 Snobbery 23 Shade tree 25 Gullets

26 Pronounces aloud 28 Indian flatbread 29 Strongly encourage 30 First Nations people 32 Ends one's career 36 Judge's garment 37 Holier-_-thou 38 Separate by type 41 "Star Wars" princess 44 Least promising 47 Confidential matters 48 Eight-sided shape 50 Hair color 52 Iridescent gems 53 Outspoken 54 Sneezing sound 56 Heaps 58 "_ means war!" 60 Humorist **Bombeck** 61 Onion relative 62 "The _-Bitsy Spider" 65 Function

Tribune Media Services

66 Permit

Tommy Bahama outdoor Living



Tommy Bahama

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THE CROWD | B.W. COOK

3 al fresco summer events focus on dining, music and great causes

ummer dining for a cause was the theme as the Festival of Chefs honoring and benefiting KidWorks held its third annual culinary extravaganza at the Newport Beach Country Club.

Some 67 amazing food artists produced their delectable canvases for the table set before ultra-generous KidWorks diners, raising in

excess of \$1 million on their recent Sunday night al fresco summer

night on the

The host chef of the night was the talented Gracme **Blair** of Newport Beach Country Club, who welcomed the lauded and honored guest chef of the party Chef Michael Campbell of Pacific Pearl and Copas. Campbell received the KidWorks Philanthropic Award for his extended community outreach assisting underserved youth in

Notable chefs supporting the charitable outreach also included Robert Gomez (A Restaurant), Prabeen Prathapan and Bert Agor **Jr.** (Balboa Bay Club and Balboa Bay Resort), Kevin Jones (Cannery), David Martin (Pacific Club), Ben Martinek (Pendry) and Alan Ramirez (Butterflight Food Service), to name only

The Newport band of the decade Tijuana Dogs were on stage to entertain along with hula dancers from Roy's Restaurant and a mariachi band from Butterflight Food Services. Indeed, something for everyone! The evening was produced by the talented **Kristen Martin** and her team at KM Productions.

Spotted in the crowd were: **Devon and Kevin** Martin, Kathy and Noel Hamilton, Ruben and Heidi Mendoza, Natalie and Todd Pickup, Carolyn and Joe Moody, Kiri and Chase Wheeler and Arcely and Adrian Montero.

Since 1993 KidWorks has served the educational, cultural and spiritual enrichment of students and families in central Santa Ana with preschool, after-



Ann Chatillon

CAROLYN AND Joe Moody, Devon and Kevin Martin and Natalie and Todd Pickup help raise \$1 million for KidWorks at a Newport Beach Country Club event.

school, tutoring, mentoring and adult services encompassing health, parenting education and more.

To learn more, visit *Kid* WorksOC.org.

HOAG SUMMER FEST

Another perfect summer evening on the Orange Coast celebrated the lifesaving and life-affirming mission of Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian as some 1,300 local citizens came together for the 2024 Hoag Summer Fest at Newport Dunes.

On stage and upfront again, the sounds of the Tijuana Dogs provided the permeating popular beat as 43 O.C. celeb chefs provided the eats. More than \$360,000 was raised to benefit Hoag's ongoing crisis response innovation, reports **Chelsea Kottke** from Hoag Communications.

"We love celebrating Hoag Summer Fest with the community. For 35 years, this event has not only served as a way to benefit Hoag patients but also bring supporters, friends, neighbors and staff together for a night of fantastic food, fun, and entertainment,' stated Flynn A. Andrizzi, president of the Hoag Hospital Foundation. "We are incredibly grateful for our community partners who continue to help Hoag lead in transforming the future of healthcare here in Orange County and beyond."

Chairing this year's Hoag Summer Fest were the mother-daughter duo Marianne Nahin and Kristen Nahin Gooding, and the **Peter & Mary Russo Family** Foundation. Hoag Summer Fest

restaurant partners all deserving mention and credit for making the event a success donating their time, talent, food and beverages were A & O Restaurant | Bar, Ambitious Ales, Angelina's Pizzeria Napoletana, Argaux, Avana, Bluewater Grill, Booch Craft, Bred Hot Chicken, Bosscat Kitchen & Libations, Chaak Kitchen, Colette's Catering, Descanso, El Cholo, Fishbonz Seafood Grill and Five Crowns.

Also front and center were Flaky Apple Pie Co., Gabbi's Mexican Kitchen, Harborside Restaurant and Hi-Time Wine Cellars, Ho Sum Bistro, Kona Ice of Huntington Beach, Lido Bottle Works, Louie's by the Bay, Mary & Dick Allen Diabetes Center Mobile Kitchen, Milk & Cookies, Miss Mini Donuts, Modo Mio Rustic Kitchen, Morning Lavendar Café, Morning Shrum, Newport Rib Co., Nowhere Bakery, Oliver's Osteria, Simply Fish, Starfish, Straub, Tanner's Restaurant - Paséa Hotel & Spa, Ten Sushi & Cocktail Bar, the Bungalow, the Cannery, TK Burgers and W Café & Restaurant.

ANNUAL CONCERT BENEFITS HIGH HOPES

The third summer dining, music and great cause evening on the social menu hit it out of the proverbial park recently on the grounds of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Newport Beach. The 25th "Eric Marienthal and Friends" jazz concert benefiting High Hopes Head Injury Program raised an impressive \$200,000 from some 600 revelers attending the out-

door concert event. "Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the incredible support from our community and the outstanding performances by Eric Marienthal, Patti Austin, and David Benoit. Your contributions have significantly impacted the High Hopes Head Injury Program," said Mark Desmond, the visionary behind the program's development.

The Tulsa Rib Co. catered the evening for VIP guests and provided a memorable dining experience, hosted bar and entertainment by the Ron Kobayashi Trio with special guest artist, singer and songwriter Mary Desmond, Mark Desmond's daughter. She is a talented R&B-infused pop singer, a multi-talented songwriter, musician, performer and actress. SiriusXM On Air Personality **Talaya** Trigueros served as master of ceremonies along with Desmond. Kevin



CAROLYN MCKITTERICK, Dwight and Kathie Armstrong enjoying the evening at Hoag Summer Fest.



Sheri Determan

DAVID BENOIT and Eric Marienthal perform on stage benefiting the High Hope Head Injury program.

O'Callaghan was the auctioneer for the evening.

Eric Marienthal took the stage and opened the show with "Lolo Shuffle," then went right into "You Ga (Ta Give It)" from his 2020 album release Double Dealin' with Randy Brecker, then into "Two in One" from his 2012 "It's Love" album, as well as his hit 'New York State of Mind."

Lindy Boone Michaelis and Mike Michaelis were honored with the High Hopes Lifetime Achievement Award. Lindy is one of Pat Boone's daughters. Ryan (Lindy's son) fell through a three-story skylight and landed on the concrete below in 2001. They sought help at High Hopes for Ryan's traumatic brain injury.

A very heartwarming testimony was given by Britney, daughter of Bob **Vermes**, board president of High Hopes. She suffered a stroke two years ago and couldn't walk or use her left arm. Tearfully, she told her story about watching her

mom volunteer at High Hopes since she was 4 years old, never thinking she would need the services. She's been coming to High Hopes and has regained her life back.

The event's sponsors were H&H Lee Foundation, Carol and James Reed, the Hyatt Regency Newport Beach, KJAZ 88.1, The Keith Family Fund at California Community Foundation, 94.7 the Wave, Xerox, Smooth Jazz News, Rainone & Jones Families, Millie and Severson General Contractors, Minuteman Press Costa Mesa, Ryan's Reach and Stirling Properties.

Established in 1975, High Hopes Head Injury Program is a one-of-a-kind nonprofit charitable rehabilitation organization dedicated to those devastated by brain injuries. For more information, visit *HighHopesBrain* Injury.org.

B.W. COOK is editor of the Bay Window, the official publication of the Balboa Bay Club in Newport Beach.

BEAUTIFY

Continued from page A1

cant buildings, will be expected to keep their properties clean, safe and visually appealing.

A pool of up to \$300,000 will be made available to assist businesses in complying with the ordinance. A business may qualify for as much as \$10,000 in reimbursement of community development fees if related maintenance projects are completed within the first year following the adoption of the program, which was established via a council resolution.

The community development director would make determinations with respect to the completion of projects.

'We'all know those properties, and we can point them out, that need a new coat of paint or need some landscaping, or even somebody to go out there with a broom and sweep the front sidewalks," Paula Hornbuckle-Arnold, the board chair for the Chamber of Commerce, said when reached for comment on Friday. "Some need roofs replaced, some need awnings redone, and they're just shabby.

"The idea behind this was just to sort of support these business owners financially, in the case of eliminating a permit fee or getting reimbursed for a permit, to make these changes without being penalized."

officials Chamber hoped to educate inquiring business owners on the reimbursement process. Reimbursement will apply to community development fees. It will not apply to the maintenance itself.

"This is a time when the city sees the need because there are definitely some properties that are worse than others at this point, and they are reflecting badly on the businesses that are their neighbors," said Erin Slattery, the chamber's president. "We want to make the whole city look good and appealing for our residents and our visitors, and we want our businesses to thrive."

The ordinance does not go into effect until 30 days after approval of the second reading. The next meeting of the city council is scheduled for Aug.

Nuisance abatement

could be sought in the form of an administrative citation against noncompliant properties.

"This ordinance shows our commitment to making Laguna Beach's commercial areas more attractive," Mayor Sue Kempf said in a statement. "By offering support and incentives, we aim to help our business community thrive and create a vibrant environment for everyone.

"As part of this effort, we are excited to introduce the 'Charm Challenge,' which will recognize and honor property owners and tenants who consistently maintain exemplary standards."

andrew.turner@latimes.com Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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5	4	9	3	6	2	8	1	7
6	3	8	4	1	7	2	9	5
4	5	6	9	3	8	7	2	1
8	1	2	7	5	4	9	6	3
3	9	7	1	2	6	5	8	4

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Currently in need of BMW, Mercedes-Benz,

U.S. Open of Surfing featured artist finds peace with paint

BY MATT SZABO

Victoria White understands the joy that surfers can feel while in the water on a big wave.

She feels it with a stroke of a paintbrush, as she illustrates a culture that she has really come to appreciate.

The Santa Monica-based artist is again a featured artist for this year's U.S. Open of Surfing in Huntington Beach.

Last year, she used her now-trademark three surfboard canvas to paint a portrait of legendary Duke Kahanamoku on the sand.

This year, White's subject will be the late pro surfer Andy Irons.

"Even the most success-

"Even the most successful people in the world have their inner demons and their mental struggles," she said of Irons, who died at age 32 in 2010.

White, originally from New Orleans, has seen it in her own life. She was a corporate lawyer for a decade and got very sick, packing up her dog and her suitcase — and her box of paints — and heading back to Southern California in 2018

A philosophy major in college, she turned back to journaling every day, reading a lot and creating.

"That framework is essentially what made me into the artist and person that I am today," said White, who turns 43 on Sunday. "I consider myself first and foremost a philosopher, and that philosophy informs my artwork, who I'm painting and why I'm painting them. What inspires me about the subject?"

She will be live-painting in the lobby of the Paséa Hotel & Spa during the U.S. Open, likely coming down to the sand for Finals Day on Aug. 11, World Surf League Global Chief Revenue Officer Cherie Cohen said.

Cohen first met White at a music festival a couple of years ago. Among the pieces she had on display was one of the legendary surfer Kelly Slater.

"Her booth was literally packed," Cohen said. "I had to buy a piece of her work. It was so awesome and electric. I loved the whole thing, and so I asked her if she would come to the Open last year, and she did. Her work is portrait-based, but in a modern way, and I think people respond to that."

Paul Maddison, the general manager of Paséa, said the hotel is happy to have White in the mix for the big nine-day event. Her space will feature a pop-up shop, as well as displaying her artwork.

"Her work perfectly

complements our collection of art throughout the property that thoughtfully celebrates Huntington Beach surf culture — including our iconic waveinspired lobby mural crafted from flip-flops," Maddison said. "Each year, our resort serves as a home base for U.S. Open of Surfing spectators and athletes,



James Carbone

VICTORIA WHITE, a Santa Monica-based artist, a featured artist for this year's U.S. Open of Surfing, poses with her signature surf board at Pasea Hotel & Spa in Huntington Beach on Friday. She will be live-painting a new, iconic, triple-surfboard portrait of Surf Legend Andy Irons for her U.S. Open exhibition as a tribute to his contribution to surfing this year.

and Victoria's exhibit at Paséa gives guests and locals a chance to experience the vibrant spirit of Surf City here at our oceanfront destination."

White said a portion of the proceeds will go to Indivisible Arts of Hermosa Beach, a nonprofit where she teaches children. She had her first solo art exhibition there in February 2023, featuring a portrait of the late surfer Miki Dora. White may no longer be

practicing law, but she has peace. "It's so important to be open to the opportunities that come your way," she

said. "Openness and curi-

tant virtue that I've tried to develop in my life. I'm glad I was open when my friend suggested I paint a surfboard because here I am today."

osity, and just seeing where

things go, is a really impor-

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BARRED

Continued from page A1

failed to submit to a new six-month contract outlining rental fee increases and other mandates by a June 15 deadline.

"Only occupants with a valid rental agreement will be permitted to use the arenas, round pens, turnouts and hot walkers," the letter reads. "Feeding of horses and cleaning of stalls will continue and will not be interrupted."

Hamblin is among 20 tenants who submitted a signed contract by the deadline but included several edits she claimed were necessary to ensure the safety of her animals. The red-lined contracts, and rent checks that failed to in-

clude the recent fee hikes, were rejected by OCFEC.

Richards confirmed Friday another 16 tenants have valid contracts and badge access to the common areas for at least 10 horses, while another 50 animals kept by outlier tenants do not.

Many boarders — including those who, like Hamblin, provide horses, training and program support to nonprofits that work with low-income students, veterans and individuals with special needs — say the increased rents will price them out of the facility.

Others take umbrage with the fact that fair-ground officials, who took over operations of the facility from a third-party vendor in 2023, entered a

costly contract with Laguna Hills-based street-sweeping company Lopez Works, Inc. for maintenance and cleaning of the grounds.

Those with a long history of keeping horses at the site, who can recall past efforts to close the Equestrian Center to accommodate a parking lot, fear increasingly untenable conditions will lead to the center's closure.

A \$229-million facilities master plan for the Costa Mesa fairgrounds, approved in Jan. 2023 by OCFEC's Board of Trustees, included no proposals for improving the current facility

Instead, the document outlined a plan for a publicfacing community equine center that will offer therapeutic programs, hands-on demonstrations, training and regional horse shows, in addition to private horse boarding and lessons, under the new moniker the Ranch.

Although board members have publicly expressed a desire to bring stakeholders to the table in the visioning process for the Ranch, so far only hastily scheduled one-onone, closed-door sessions with Richards have been offered to tenants.

Hamblin said that beyond the fee hikes, the main sticking point among Thursday's protesters is that no good-faith offer has been made by officials to discuss new contract terms, ways to save money or to include stakeholder input on what future programs at the Ranch might look like.

"We've been asking for a seat at the table and asking to have a conversation," said Hamblin, who had a one-on-one meeting with Richards in May she described as unproductive. "At board meetings, we get to talk and they get to talk, but there's really no interac-

"I'm hopeful we can have a dialogue and have everyone get back on the same page."

As for barring horses from exercise areas, Orange County Supervisor and former Costa Mesa Mayor Katrina Foley in a release Thursday called the move unfair to boarders and their

"Fair staff must reverse this decision and open the arena for exercising horses and resume discussions with tenants after the conclusion of the OC Fair," Foley said. "Right now, we must focus on helping the horses while the humans negotiate their disputes."

Hamblin agrees.

"Part of me doesn't quite understand resorting to leveraging people's animals for negotiations," she said Friday. "That does not make sense to the animal lover in me. They didn't do anything — why are they being punished?"

Although no steps to physically evict uncontracted tenants and their horses have been taken, Richards confirmed Friday the district was "considering all options available to it"

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HOMES FOR SALE

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Mailbag for guidelines.

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DOCTOR

Continued from page A1

four years ago.

Abelowitz had been advised by colleagues that getting into business with a hedge fund could lead to compromises in patient care for the sake of profit. Despite these warnings, he enlisted the support of private equity firm Summit Partners, L.P. and their management company, Pediatric Associates Holdings LLC, in December 2020, according to the wrongful termination and defamation suit he recently filed against them in Orange County Superior Court.

When he entered that deal, Abelowitz took care to retain majority ownership of Coastal Kids, appointed himself chief medical officer and put in provisions that made him the only person in the organization with the authority to fire him. But in spite of these precautions, the Newport Beach pediatrician claims his worst fears were realized soon after partnering with the hedge fund.

Representatives for Pediatric Associates described Abelowitz's suit as baseless.

"Pediatric Associates is dedicated to enhancing the lives of children, their families and communities by delivering the highest quality of pediatric health care and service in a compassionate and healthy environment," a spokesperson for management company said in a statement Friday. ... The allegations contained in this lawsuit are completely without merit, and we will defend ourselves vigorously."

HEDGE FUND OWNERSHIP OF CARE

FACILITIES GROWING Since 2013, medical practices have increasingly become a target for acquisition by private equity firms, according to studies published by the American Medical Assn.'s open access medical journal, JAMA Network. Roughly 8% of private hospitals in the U.S., about 460, are currently owned by hedge funds, according to research by the Private Equity Stakeholder Project, a watchdog group monitor-

ing hedge funds. "The healthcare system should serve patients," California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta said in a statement in support of Assembly Bill 3129, a proposed law that would give his office oversight over the purchase of medical practices by hedge funds. "Yet too often, private equity has served corporate profiteers by maximizing their profits at the expense of access, quality, and affordability of health-

care for Californians." Abelowitz said Pediatric Associates began making decisions that should have been left to medical staff and was responsible for a drop in both the number of support employees and the quality of their training. He and his attorneys allege patients' vitals weren't being properly recorded, and there were multiple cases when children were given the wrong vaccines.

They also accuse Pediatric Associates of taking vaccines provided by the Centers for Disease Control that were supposed to be administered to uninsured or underinsured kids and giving those to patients with private insurance instead.

The plaintiff also claims children dealing with mental health issues were given low priority because those visits tended to take more time while generating less revenue. Their appointments were intentionally double booked, forcing clinicians to spend no more than a few minutes with those patients.

Pediatric Associates began sending representatives on unannounced visits to care facilities. Abelowitz claims this "discouraged clinician independence,' and coupled with a shortage of qualified support staff, resulted in a high turnover rate among the pediatric group's physicians. The hedge fund's management company also enlisted a triage and call center in Mexico to field patient calls. As a result, some complained they had to wait hours on the phone.

Christina Nguyen and daughter, Allison, signed up for care with Coastal Kids in Irvine shortly before the company partnered with Pediatric Associates. She was beyond satisfied at first, she said, and especially impressed by Abelowitz's personal investment in his patients' well-being.

She recalled how distraught she felt when Allison once came down with a 102-degree fever as a toddler. Fearing the worst, Nguyen dialed Abelowitz directly.

"I didn't trust anyone but him, so I gave him a call,' Nguyen, a single mother, said. "And he just happened to be at his son's graduation at Tulane. And he picked up the phone.'

That kind of accessibility, in addition to the Newport Beach-based pediatrician's balance of professionalism and personality, are largely why Nguyen and her daughter had been loyal to Coastal Kids. But Nguyen said that over the past year or so, she and other patients with the pediatric group have noticed a decline in the kind of service and care they've been getting.

Appointments she tried to set have gotten postponed and repeatedly rescheduled for months. And it became more difficult to reach anyone at the pediatric group over the phone. When Nguyen's daughter came down with a 104-degree fever about a month ago, she recalled spending between 30 minutes to an hour on hold with her 4year-old daughter lying weak and in a pool of sweat beside her.

"She was in bed. I had ice packs everywhere," said Nguyen, who is Asian American and a practicing Jew. "I put ice in her socks. I needed to get that fever down. I sound like a crazy Jewish mom right now, but I had one phone ringing for the Coastal Kids in Newport Beach, one phone ringing for Coastal Kids in Irvine and the other one was to a family member."

She said she wasn't able to get through to anyone at

See **Doctor**, page A6

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SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 24VECV00197

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

Miguel Santos Marcela, Samy M. Gerges and DOES 1-25, inclusive

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE) Gonzalo Garcia Rojas

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting

your local court or county bar association. NOTE The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presenter una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo prolegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte v más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de extención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero v hiener sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de Legal (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos extentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Van Nuys Courthouse East 6230 Sylmar Ave Van Nuys, CA 91405

The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:

(El nombre, la dirección y el número de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abodgado, es): F. Jay Rahimi, Esq. (SBN 305286), Los Angeles Legal Solutions, 17200 Ventura Blvd., #115, Encino, CA

Date: 01/16/2024

91316, 818-510-0555

David W. Slayton Executive Officer/ Clerk of the Court

A. Salcedo (Adjunto)

Published in the Los Angeles Times 8/3, 8/10, 8/17,

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE AND OF INTENTION TO TRANSFER ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE(S) (UCC Sec. 6105 et seg. and B & P Sec. 24073 et seg.)

Escrow No. 24-39084-JP NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale of assets and a transfer of alcoholic beverage license(s) is about to be made. The name(s) and business address(es) of the Seller(s)/Licensee(s) are: NAKASAN INC., 688 BAKER STREET STE. 7, COSTA MESA, CA 92626

Doing Business as: **SAKANAYA** All other business names(s) and address(es) used

by the Seller(s)/Licensee(s) within the past three years, as stated by the Seller(s)/Licensee(s) is/are: name(s) and address

Buyer(s)/Applicant(s) is/are: SHIBA T&D, INC., 7710 BALBOA AVENUE SUITE 228B, SAN DIEGO, CA 92111 The assets being sold are generally described as: FURNITURES, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENTS, TOOLS,

GOODWILL, LEASEHOLD INTEREST, LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS, ALL TRANSFERABLE PERMITS. AND LICENSES and is/are located at: 688 BAKER STREET STE. 7, COSTA MESA, CA 92626 The type of license(s) and license no(s) to be transferred is/are: ON-SALE BEER & WINE EATING

premises located at: **SAME** . The bulk sale and transfer of alcoholic beverage license(s) is/are intended to be consummated at the office of: TEAM ESCROW INC, 30 CORPORATE PARK, SUITE 210, IRVINE, CA 92606 and the

PLACE 41-561461. And are now issued for the

anticipated sale/transfer is AUGUST 30, 2024 The purchase price or consideration in connection with the sale of the business and transfer of the license, is the sum of \$100,000.00, including inventory estimated at \$0.00 which consists of the following: DESCRIPTION/AMOUNT \$100,000.00; ALLOCATION-SUB \$100,000.00; ALLOCATION TOTAL \$100,000.00.

been agreed between seller(s)/licensee(s) and the intended buyer(s)/applicant(s), as required by Sec. 24073 of the Business and Professions code, that the consideration for transfer of the business and license is to be paid only after the transfer has been approved by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Dated: 07/16/24 NAKASAN INC., SELLER(S)/LICENSEE(S) SHIBA T&D, INC., BUYER(S)/APPLICANT(S) ORD-2558379 DAILY PILOT 8/3/24



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, August 15, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. or soon thereafter as the matter shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted online via Zoom. The Zoning Administrator of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:

Barsam Residence - A coastal development permit (CDP) to allow a remodel and addition to an existing 3,201-square-foot single-unit dwelling. The proposed addition is 1,063 square feet, which is greater than 10% of the existing residence. The addition also includes a height increase that exceeds 10% of the existing height.

The project is categorically exempt under Section 15301 under Class 1 (Existing Facilities) of the State CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act)

All interested parties may appear and present testimony regarding this application. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public the City or before the public hearing. application may be continued to a specific future meeting date; if such an action occurs, additional public notice of the continuance will not be provided. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapter 21.64 (Appeals and Calls for Review). A fee is not required to appeal any final action on a coastal development permit to the Planning Commission. The project site is located within the appeal area of the coastal zone; therefore, final action by the City may be appealed to the

The agenda, staff report, and corresponding documents will be available by end of business day on the Friday preceding the public hearing and may be reviewed at the Community Development Department Permit Center (Bay C-1st Floor), at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 or the City of Newport Beach

 $\underline{www.newportbeach ca.gov/zoning administrator}.$ Please review the Zoning Administrator Agenda for Zoom participation instructions. Individuals not able to attend the meeting may contact the Planning Division or access the City's website after the meeting to review the action on this application. All mail or written communications (including email) from the public, residents, or applicants regarding an agenda item must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. on the business day immediately before the meeting. This allows time for the Zoning Administrator to adequately consider the submitted correspondence.

For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Oscar Orozco, Assistant Planner, at 949-644-3219 or oorozco@newportbeachca.gov, at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA

Project File No.: PA2024-0032

Activity: Coastal Development Permit

General Plan:

Filing Date:

Applicant:

March 13, 2024

RS-D (Single Unit

Residential Detached)

R-1 (Single-Unit

Residential)

Coastal Land Use Plan: RSD-B (Single Unit

Residential Detached) - (6.0 - 9.9 DU/AC)

Location:

2791 Bayshore Drive

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CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on or after Thursday, August 15, 2024, the Zoning Administrator of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:

Haeri Residential Condominiums - A tentative parcel map for two-unit condominium purposes. A duplex has been demolished and a new duplex is under construction. No waivers of Title 19 (Subdivisions) of the Newport Beach Municipal Code are proposed. The tentative parcel map will allow each unit to be sold individually.

The project is categorically exempt under Section 15315 under Class 15 (Minor Land Divisions) of the State CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act)

All interested parties may appear and present testimony regarding this application. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the City or before the public hearing. The application may be continued to a specific future meeting date; if such an action occurs, additional public notice of the continuance will not be provided. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Section 19.12.060 (Subdivision Code). The application may be continued to a specific future meeting date; if such an action occurs, additional public notice of the continuance will not be provided.

The agenda, staff report, and corresponding documents will be available by end of business day on the Friday preceding the public hearing and may be reviewed at the Community Development Department Permit Center (Bay C-1st Floor), at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach. All mail or written communications (including email) from the public, residents, or applicants regarding an agenda item must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. on the business day immediately before the meeting. This allows time for the Zoning Administrator to adequately consider the submitted correspondence.

For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Laura Rodriguez, Planning . Technician at <u>Irodriguez@newportbeachca.gov</u>, 949-644-3216, or at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Project File No.: PA2024-0090

Activity: Tentative Parcel Map

Zone: R-2 (Two-Unit Residential)

General Plan: RT (Two Unit Residential)

Applicant:

Jesus Millot

Location: 603 & 603 ½ Larkspur Avenue



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a tentative parcel map is scheduled for review by the Zoning Administrator of the City of Newport Beach on or after Thursday, August 15, 2024. The Zoning application:

Linos Residential Condominiums - A tentative parcel map for two-unit residential condominium An existing duplex has been demolished, and a new duplex is currently under construction. The tentative parcel map would allow each unit to be sold individually. No waivers of Newport Beach Municipal Code (NBMC) Title 19 (Subdivisions) are proposed

The project is categorically exempt pursuant to Section 15315 under Class 15 (Minor Land Divisions) of the State CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) Guidelines.

All interested parties may submit written comments regarding the requested tentative parcel map to Jerry Arregui, Assistant Planner, at jarregui@newportbeachca.gov, 949-644-3249 or at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, California, 92660. Comments will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 14, 2024. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only the issues you or someone else raised in written correspondence delivered to the City, on, or before, the date of the decision. The project file may be reviewed at the Community Development Department Permit Center (Bay C-1st Floor), at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

For questions regarding this item please contact . Planner, Arregui, Assistant jarregui@newportbeachca.gov, 949-644-3249 or at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Project File No.: PA2024-0110

Activity: Tentative Parcel Map

General Plan:

Zone: Two-Unit Residential (R-2)

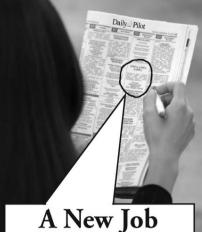
516 and 516 1/2 Larkspur

Location:

Avenue

Applicant: Matthew Watson

Two Unit Residential



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SURFERS

Continued from page A1

Surfers' Hall of Fame tradition.
Deffenbaugh represented
Huntington Beach on the big
stage throughout the 1990s. He
won seven professional titles,
including the Katin Pro-Am
crown in 1992 and '98.

Nowadays he continues to give back to the next generation through the Huntington Beach Boardriders Club. This year, he also served as the surfing grand marshal at the annual Fourth of July parade.

Two-time U.S. Open of Surfing champion and Surf City local Brett Simpson, who served as emcee of Friday's ceremony, said Deffenbaugh has always made a big impression on him.

big impression on him.

"He just turned 51 and he still goes out there and drops nines with ease," Simpson said. "Everyone goes, 'How does he get the waves?' I'm like, 'I don't know, just watch him, he knows where to go sit'"

Deffenbaugh, during his comments, gave advice to his children.

"It does move fast," he said.
"You guys gotta follow your passion, stay focused and stay true to yourself, too. Sometimes you have to bend a little bit in life, but just don't break, OK?"

Kalama, originally from Oahu, moved to Newport Beach with his family at age 16 and immediately made his mark on the mainland. Serving as a Huntington Beach lifeguard, he won the West Coast Surfing Championship in 1962, the eventual predecessor to the U.S. Open of Surfing.

After returning to Hawaii, he came back to California and



Photos by James Carbone

LOCAL HUNTINGTON BEACH surfer Brett Simpson inducts Ilima Kalama into the Surfers' Hall of Fame during Friday's ceremony in front of Huntington Surf & Sport. Kalama, a Hawaii native who lives in Costa Mesa, won the West Coast Surfing Championship 62 years ago.

relocated to Costa Mesa, where he still lives.

Corky Carroll, who also competed in that 1962 contest, offered some thoughts on Kalama during Friday's festivities.

"It was the first year the surf was really big and gnarly," Carroll said. "It was like 10 feet, it was blown out ... nobody could ride it except for Ilima. He was like this royal Hawaiian kind of dude, with a beautiful stance and just shredding through the pier like it was nothing."

O'Brien, 41, has the nickname "JOB." He won the 2004 Pipeline Masters — at 21 years of age — but ended up earning more notoriety as a free surfer, as well as with a very successful YouTube channel.

"What an icon to the sport," Simpson said. "Is there a more barreled surfer in the world? I don't think so."

O'Brien said when he got an email about being inducted into the Surfers' Hall of Fame, at first the family didn't think it was

"A couple of days later, it was like, 'Oh, I think this email might

be real," he said with a laugh.
"The way they reached out to us
was kind of cool. I felt like they
could have just asked Brett Simpson, 'Hey, can you hit up Jamie?'
But maybe Brett didn't want to
talk to me. He still owes me a
board."

matthew.szabo@latimes.com Twitter: @mjszabo

DOCTOR

Continued from page A5

Coastal Kids over the phone at the time. So she reached out to Abelowitz's wife via WhatsApp, and they got him to call Nguyen just as he was getting off of an international flight back to Orange County. He set her at ease, guided her through the emergency and "saved my daughter's life twice," Nguyen said.

But in recent months Abelowitz stopped taking appointments or showing up at his practice's locations, appearing to drop off the face of the earth to Nguyen and other Coastal Kids members. That's because Pediatric Associates barred him from seeing patients and banned him from the premises of the company he started, according to his suit.

SUING FOR OWNERSHIP OF THE COMPANY HE CREATED

Abelowitz claims he repeatedly had issues with policies he felt were negatively affecting patients but received little more than lip service. According to the lawsuit, representatives for Pediatric Associates tried to coerce him into handing over his shares in the company in May 2023 and January 2024.

During the latter meeting in Newport Beach, the pediatrician was told he was being investigated for a complaint of abuse. However, there was no record of any complaint or grievance in Abelowitz's employee file, according to his

Regardless, Abelowitz claims that supposed complaint was used by Pediatric Associates as a pretext to manipulate provisions in their agreements and wrongfully fire him. The management company later held a virtual meeting with Coastal Kids physicians and declined to provide specifics regarding his termination but insinuated that the situation was similar to another involving a clinician who was caught abusing drugs, according to the lawsuit.

"Dr. Abelowitz was terminated for a pattern of conduct toward employees that is inconsistent with our values and policies as an organization," a Pediatric Associates said in its statement.

The Newport Beach pediatrician is suing for ownership of

the company he founded and spent the past two decades building up, as well as damages associated with lost wages, legal fees and emotional distress. He and his attorneys also hope a judge will prohibit Pediatric Associates from "engaging in the corporate practice of medicine."

Meanwhile, Nguyen said she and other Coastal Kids families were looking for alternative care providers and waiting for Abelowitz to open a new practice.

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Los Angeles Times Times OC



California State Parks seasonal lifeguard Sierra Fockler discovered a 14-inch Pacific football fish around 2:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 13. near the lifeguard station located at Crystal Cove State Park in Orange County. It's the second such case of the fish washing ashore over the last three years. (Courtesy of California State Parks)

Good morning. It's Wednesday, Oct. 25. I'm Carol Cormaci, bringing you this week's <u>TimesOC newsletter</u> with a look at the latest local news and events.

Watch where you're stepping on O.C.'s famed sands, because you may encounter a rare specimen of marine life. One, in fact, that has very sharp teeth

That's what happened on a recent afternoon to lifeguard Sierra Fockler, who found a spooky-looking black angler fish, specifically a Pacific football fish, while she was walking near the lifeguard headquarters building on Moro Beach, located within Crystal Cove State Park.